



CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) An information apparatus comprising:

user-designated information acquiring means for acquiring sequential user-designated information which changes in accordance with time at a constant period or cycle, the acquired sequential information including information regarding selections made by a user;

accuracy setting means for specifying accuracy setting information in response to user input, said accuracy setting information including a ratio of disclosure of the acquired sequential information to an external device; and

information notifying means controlled according to the accuracy setting information specified by the accuracy setting means for transmitting log information which changes in accordance with time to the external device, said log information being obtained by restricting acquired sequential information according to the ratio of disclosure.

2. (Previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the log information is transmitted to the external device together with log accuracy information generated based on the accuracy setting information.

3. (Previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

audio-visual (AV) function control means, a function controlled by the AV control means including any of: a broadcast-type contents receiving function, a contents recording function and an Internet access function,

wherein at least part of the acquired sequential information is at least one of device operation and information regarding an AV contents selection performed via the AV function control means.

4. (Currently amended) ~~The information processing apparatus according to claim 1~~
An information apparatus comprising:

user-designated information acquiring means for acquiring sequential user-designated information which changes in accordance with time at a constant period or cycle, the acquired sequential information including information regarding selections made by a user;

accuracy setting means for specifying accuracy setting information in response to user input, said accuracy setting information including a ratio of disclosure of the acquired sequential information to an external device; and

information notifying means controlled according to the accuracy setting information specified by the accuracy setting means for transmitting log information which changes in accordance with time to the external device, said log information being obtained by restricting acquired sequential information according to the ratio of disclosure, further comprising:

pseudo information generating means configured to generate pseudo user-designated information composed of the same format as user-designated information, wherein the pseudo user-designated information comprises at least some content to be regarded as user-designated information and at least some content that is different from the user-designated information,

wherein a part of the acquired sequential information from the user-designated information acquiring means is replaced with the pseudo user-designated information according to the ratio of disclosure to form the log information.

5. (Previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further including:

storing means configured to store information, said stored information including at least one of part of the log information and the accuracy setting information,

wherein the information notifying means is configured to transmit the stored information to the external device.

6. (Previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the user-designated information acquiring means acquires the user-designated information from external audio-visual (AV) devices respectively having AV function control means, which are independent of the information processing apparatus.

7. (Previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the user-designated information acquiring means acquires user-designated information from a home appliance independent of the information processing apparatus.

8. (Previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a method, for (a) receiving contents information, said contents information comprising both substantial information and contents selection information for specifying a method of playing back at least part of the substantial information and (b) playing back of the substantial information, is determined according to the contents selection information and the sequential user-designated information.

9. (Previously presented) A log accumulation control device for restricting sequential user-designated information which changes with time, including contents selection information regarding contents selections made by a user, in accordance with accuracy setting information specifying a ratio of disclosure of the sequential information to an external device, and for transmitting sequential information as log information together with log accuracy information generated based on the accuracy setting information to the external device, comprising:

accumulating means for receiving and accumulating one or more of the log information which changes in accordance with time at a constant period or cycle and corresponding log accuracy information; and

log storing means for recording an individual log information, from the one or more log information, as at least two log information which are each set to an accuracy based on corresponding log accuracy information.

10. (Previously presented) A log accumulation control device for restricting sequential user-designated information including contents selection information which changes with time regarding contents selections made by a user, in accordance with accuracy setting information specifying a ratio of disclosure of the sequential information to an external device, and for transmitting sequential information as log information together with log accuracy information generated based on the accuracy setting information to the external device, comprising:

accumulating means for receiving and accumulating the log information which changes in accordance with time at a constant period or cycle and log accuracy information; and

log storing means for recording the log accuracy information and the log information, which generates by-accuracy log information designated based on log accuracy designation information requested from the external device and transmits the same to the external device.

11. (Previously presented) A contents delivery control device configured for use with an information processing apparatus for restricting sequential user-designated information which changes over time, including contents selection information regarding contents selections made by a user, in accordance with accuracy setting information for specifying a ratio of disclosure of the user-designated information to an external device, comprising:

contents recording means for storing contents information comprising both contents selection information and substantial contents information at a constant period or cycle, wherein the contents selection information specifies a method of reproducing the substantial contents information based on restricted information received as log information from the information processing apparatus;

contents managing means for selecting contents information stored in the content recording means; and

delivering means for transmitting the selected contents information to the information processing apparatus.

12. (Previously presented) A contents delivering system comprising:

an information processing apparatus for restricting sequential user-designated information which changes over time, including contents selection information regarding contents selections made by a user, in accordance with accuracy setting information for specifying a ratio of disclosure of the sequential information to an external device, and for supplying sequential information as log information together with log accuracy information generated based on the accuracy setting information;

a log accumulation control device for receiving, accumulating and recording the log information at a constant period or cycle and log accuracy information from the information processing apparatus, and for generating and transmitting by-accuracy log information designated based on required log accuracy designation information; and

a contents delivery control device for storing contents information comprising substantial contents information generated based on by-accuracy log information from the log accumulation control device and contents selection information for specifying a method of reproducing the contents substantial information, for selecting the stored contents information, and transmitting the selected contents information to the information processing apparatus.

13. (Previously presented) A contents delivering system comprising:

an information processing apparatus including:

user-designated information acquiring means for acquiring sequential user-designated information which changes over time at a constant period or cycle, including contents selection information regarding contents selections made by a user;

notifying means for sending log information to an external device; and

accuracy setting means for specifying the ratio of disclosure of the
acquired sequential information to the external device,

said information processing apparatus controlling the notifying means according to
accuracy setting information from the accuracy setting means to transmit log information
obtained by restricting the acquired sequential information in accordance with the accuracy
setting information and causing transmission of log accuracy information generated based on the
accuracy setting information to the external device;

a log accumulation control device serving as the external device, including:

accumulating means for receiving and accumulating log information and
log accuracy information transmitted from the information processing apparatus;

and

log storing means for recording the log accuracy information and the log
information,

said log accumulation control device generating and transmitting by-accuracy log
information designated based on required log accuracy designation information; and

a contents delivery control device including:

contents recording means for storing contents information comprising both
substantial contents information generated based on the by-accuracy log
information transmitted from the log accumulation control device, and contents
selection information for specifying a method of reproducing the substantial
contents information;

contents managing means for selecting the contents information recorded in the contents recording means; and

delivering means for transmitting the selected contents information to the information processing apparatus.

14. (Previously presented) The contents delivering system according to claim 13, further including a log operating unit comprising:

at least one log acquiring means for transmitting the log accuracy designation information to the log accumulation control device and receiving by-accuracy log information transmitted from the log accumulation control device; and

at least one contents information sending means for transmitting substantial contents information corresponding to the received by-accuracy log information to the contents delivery control device.

15. (Previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

audio-visual (AV) function control means, a function controlled by the AV control means including any of: a broadcast-type contents receiving function, a contents recording function and an Internet access function,

wherein at least part of the acquired sequential information is at least one of device operation and information regarding contents selection performed via the AV function control means.

16. (Previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

pseudo information generating means configured to generate pseudo user-designated information,

wherein a part of the acquired sequential information from the user-designated information acquiring means is replaced with the pseudo user-designated information according to the accuracy setting information to form the log information.

17. (Previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 2, further including:

storing means configured to store information, said stored information including at least one of part of the log information and the log accuracy information,

wherein the information notifying means is configured to transmit the stored information to the external device.

18. (Previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein a method, for (a) receiving contents information, said contents information comprising both substantial information and contents selection information for specifying a method of reproducing at least part of the substantial information and (b) reproducing the contents substantial information, is determined according to the contents selection information and the sequential user-designated information.